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"LPPS" deceive the East Timor Church for many years

An organisation of the Indonesian Episcopal Conference by the name of the Institute of Social Development or "LPPS = Lembaga Penelitian Pembangunan Sosial" - its Indonesian name, has deceived the church in the diocese of Dili-East Timor on economic and finance matters for winning the sympathy and esteem of the Maubere people.

At the end of last year (1986), the Bishop of Dili, Monsenhor Belo made a request to one of his Australian friends for a car for his his parish. After learning about the request, the Director of "the Australian Catholic Relief" protested saying, "Annually we have sent through LPPS for the sole use of the Diocese of Dili $100,000, which should be enough to arrange for a car, or were they merely advising of the need for a car." In the face of this reaction Mons. Belo was perplexed, and in reply he wrote, "Notwithstanding what has been given by the Apostolic Administrator (Indonesian), not even one cent has been nominated as coming from the Australian Catholic Relief. It should be noted $100,000 was sent annually from LPPS, because conditions would not permit it to be sent directly. I have never had the aid."

The Director of LPPS, Padre Hardo Putanto s.j. and his secretary Ibu Ima always gave aid during the term of Mons. Martinho da Costa Lopes, who saw it as a means of helping East Timor in economic and social matters. Generally it consisted of money, but they never gave any acknowledgment to the Diocese Bishop or his clergy that the aid came from the Australian Catholic Relief. Only declaring that it was from LPPS, the representative of the Indonesian Episcopal Conference on the subject of social aid. But still declaring LPPS was especially interested in helping Timorese orphans. With this declaration each time, we in East Timor saw they were always acting with a great deal of concern for the church and the Timorese population, at the expense of the Australians, in order to earn for themselves the sympathy of the church and its people, or in order to console the clergy, which gives an indication of the subversiveness by the illegal occupying government.

Screening a percentage of the annual aid bound for the clergy in the Diocese of Dili was a major part of the money i.e. $100,000 per annum for all the applicable subjects, deposited by the Indonesian church into the Jakarta banks, or used for other ends without having any benefit to the Diocese of Dili. The Episcopal Conference always gave independently.

LPPS for many years shamefully made its own economies for international aid to the Diocese of Dili without knowledge of the Diocese Prelate. In some parishes they gave some alms and scholarships, which were like small pieces of meat to tame a puppy. Whereas in truth it should have been said that the aid was from this or that organisation, so that the Bishop in the name of the Diocese could pass on the aid with less words of gratitude to the apparent source of the alms. Maybe it is serious for the Diocese of Dili that for many years they did not show the small human act of gratitude or thanks to the Australian Catholic Relief. But in the final part of 1986, the Australian Catholic Relief came to the conclusion that after all the ingratitude by the Timorese people through their representative Monsenhor Belo was still in the process..., they were not

able to entirely blame the Diocese of Dili for their ingratitude and lack of thanks, as in these difficult times they did not know who to thank for the aid.

It is also because of this small immoral act (in order to not say merely immoral) the Diocese of Dili always appeared to be forgetful, but they have always had brothers in Australia, whereas it is the Indonesians who brought the suffering to the Maubere people - they have an interest in the suffering that has occurred. It is only since last year that we learnt the Catholics of our neighbour in Australia were also very concerned about the suffering of the Maubere people. By the knowledge that the concern had been shown with the economic aid of $100,000 per year for many years. But the occupying overlords never revealed this concern by the Australian Catholics for the Timorese people. It is perhaps because of the moral, social, political, and humanitarian rights of the Maubere - as said by the Indonesians - that has been cheated by the savage and inhuman ideology of "Panca Sila", which declares ridiculously to the existence of a supreme god as the first point of their constitution. And it is asserted that it is for this reason of veneration for Pancasila that LPPS have shut their eyes to the Maubere people, and the aid from our Australian brothers.

In order to avoid distasteful world opinion of outrage that might occur because of LPPS, the problem stays hidden. Much more so because of the problem of East Timor which is more troublesome for Indonesian politics which has many other weaknesses that are both moral and political. Up to the present time the Bishop of Dili as well as the Australian Catholic Relief have never shown a closed mind on the matter, but on the contrary both have strived in the best possible way to keep the good name of the Indonesian Church at the worldwide level - forgetting about other Maubere whose untiringly struggle without human and divine respect for the defense of their proper rights, a right no man can violate - concealing and slowly resolving the matter between them, because of other outward appearance - similar to making - a much bigger scandal for LPPS and their tyrannical government.